



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

**Committee Bill No. 5131**

LCO No. 4258



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Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:  
(VA)

**AN ACT CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION  
BENEFITS FOR SPOUSES OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES  
WHO ARE DEPLOYED OR TRANSFERRED.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 31-235 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

3 (a) An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits  
4 with respect to any week only if it has been found that (1) such  
5 individual has made claim for benefits in accordance with the  
6 provisions of section 31-240 and has registered for work at the public  
7 employment bureau or other agency designated by the administrator  
8 within such time limits, with such frequency and in such manner as  
9 the administrator may prescribe, provided failure to comply with this  
10 condition may be excused by the administrator upon a showing of  
11 good cause therefor; (2) except as provided in [subsection (b)]  
12 subsections (b) and (d) of this section, such individual is physically  
13 and mentally able to work and is available for work and has been and  
14 is making reasonable efforts to obtain work, provided the individual  
15 shall not be considered to be unavailable for work solely because the

16 individual is attending a school, college or university as a regularly  
17 enrolled student during the separation from employment, within the  
18 limitations of subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of section 31-236, and  
19 provided further, the individual shall not be considered to be lacking  
20 in efforts to obtain work if, as a student, such efforts are restricted to  
21 employment which does not conflict with the individual's regular class  
22 hours as a student, and provided the administrator shall not use prior  
23 "patterns of unemployment" of the individual to determine whether  
24 the individual is available for work; (3) such individual has been paid  
25 wages by an employer who was subject to the provisions of this  
26 chapter during the base period of the current benefit year in an amount  
27 at least equal to forty times the individual's benefit rate for total  
28 unemployment, provided an unemployed individual who is sixty-two  
29 years of age or older and is involuntarily retired under a compulsory  
30 retirement policy or contract provision shall be eligible for benefits  
31 with respect to any week, notwithstanding subdivisions (1) and (2) of  
32 this subsection, if it is found by the administrator that the individual  
33 has made claim for benefits in accordance with the provisions of  
34 section 31-240, has registered for work at the public employment  
35 bureau, is physically and mentally able to work, is available for work,  
36 meets the requirements of this subdivision and has not refused  
37 suitable work to which the individual has been referred by the  
38 administrator; (4) such individual participates in reemployment  
39 services, such as job search assistance services, if the individual has  
40 been determined to be likely to exhaust regular benefits and need  
41 reemployment services pursuant to a profiling system established by  
42 the administrator unless the administrator determines that (A) the  
43 individual has completed such services, or (B) there is justifiable cause  
44 for the individual's failure to participate in such services. The  
45 administrator shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
46 provisions of chapter 54, for the administration of the profiling system.  
47 For purposes of subdivision (2) of this subsection, "patterns of  
48 unemployment" means regularly recurring periods of unemployment  
49 of the claimant in the years prior to filing the claim in question.

50 (b) The provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section  
51 relating to the eligibility of students for benefits shall not be applicable  
52 to any claimant who attended a school, college or university as a  
53 regularly enrolled full-time student at any time during the two years  
54 prior to such claimant's date of separation from employment, unless  
55 such claimant was employed on a full-time basis, as determined by the  
56 administrator, for the two years prior to such date.

57 (c) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this  
58 section, an unemployed individual may limit such individual's  
59 availability for work to part-time employment, provided the  
60 individual (A) provides documentation from a licensed physician or  
61 an advanced practice registered nurse that (i) the individual has a  
62 physical or mental impairment that is chronic or is expected to be long-  
63 term or permanent in nature, and (ii) the individual is unable to work  
64 full-time because of such impairment, and (B) establishes, to the  
65 satisfaction of the administrator, that such limitation does not  
66 effectively remove such individual from the labor force.

67 (2) In determining whether the individual has satisfied the  
68 requirements of subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection,  
69 the administrator shall consider the individual's work history, efforts  
70 to find work, the hours such individual is medically permitted to work  
71 and the individual's availability during such hours for work that is  
72 suitable in light of the individual's impairment.

73 (d) Any individual who voluntarily leaves work to accompany a  
74 spouse who is on active duty with the armed forces of the United  
75 States and who is required by the armed forces to relocate shall be  
76 eligible for benefits, for a period not to exceed two weeks during such  
77 relocation, notwithstanding such individual's unavailability for work  
78 and inability to make reasonable efforts to obtain work during such  
79 period, provided such individual (1) has made a claim for benefits in  
80 accordance with the provisions of section 31-240, and (2) has been paid  
81 wages by an employer who was subject to the provisions of this

82 chapter during the base period of the current benefit year in an amount  
83 at least equal to forty times the individual's benefit rate for total  
84 unemployment.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	October 1, 2013	31-235
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***Statement of Purpose:***

To permit an individual to receive unemployment compensation benefits for a period not to exceed two weeks while such individual is relocating with a spouse who is a member of the armed forces and has been transferred or deployed, even if such individual is unavailable for work and unable to make reasonable efforts to obtain work during such period.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. NICASTRO, 79th Dist.

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